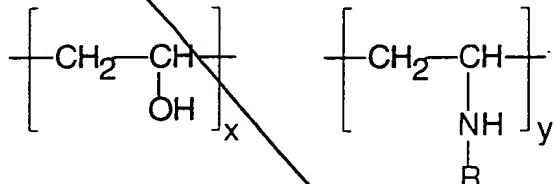


*Subj* -- 12. A recording sheet for ink jet printing comprising a support coated with at least one layer receptive for aqueous inks; wherein said layer contains:

(a) at least one copolymer of the general structure:



where

$\text{R} \neq \text{H}$  or alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms

$x + y = 1$

$y = 0.05 - 0.2$

$x = 0.8 - 0.95$ ; and

(b) a binder or mixture of binders.

R E M A R K S

All claims pending in the application, namely 1-11, stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 grounds as being indefinite; and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smigo; and under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Smigo further in view of either Oliver or Kobayashi, and over Kono or Kashiwazaki in view of Smigo. The claims are amended in this preliminary amendment to further define the invention to distinguish over the

cited art.

INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2 and added independent Claim 12 to clarify the structure of the recording sheet and to overcome the Examiner's objections stated in ¶ 2 of the Office Action. No new matter has been introduced by new claim 12 since it is only a combination of the limitations contained in claims 1 and 2.

The remaining claims have been amended to reflect the proper claim dependency. In addition, claim 5 and the specification have been amended to reflect proper antecedent basis for the molecular weight range of the copolymers of the invention. The molecular weight is a weight average molecular weight.

Accordingly, Applicants' believe the Examiner's § 112 rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smigo. As now amended, independent claim 12 particularly defines the invention as receiving sheets for ink jet printing comprising a copolymer of vinyl alcohol and vinylamine **and** a binder or mixture of binders.

Smigo discloses a layer comprising a copolymer of vinyl alcohol and vinyl amine, however, unlike the present invention, **no other binders are present.** The invention claims are now

structurally different than Smigo et al. Thus, the Examiner's rejection under § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

The pending claims also remain rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smigo et al., alone, or in view of Oliver et al. or Kobayashi et al.; and as being unpatentable over Kono et al. or Kashiwazaki et al. Applicants respectfully disagree and refer the Examiner to the previous amendment submitted wherein arguments were presented to overcome these cited references.

Applicants assert these prior arguments are now fully supported by the pending claims and overcome the prior art. The now defined structure of the invention claims provides a recording sheet comprised of a particular copolymer structure and a binder which is not taught or suggested by the prior art either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 3-12 are hereby requested. If a telephone interview would be useful to advance this case, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

**9. Small Entity Statement**

- Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR §§ 1.9 and 1/27 is(are) attached.
- Status as a small entity was claimed in prior application 08/399,458, filed on March 7, 1995, from which benefit is being claimed for this application

under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), and which status as a small entity is still proper and desired. A copy of the statement in the prior application is included.

#### 10. Filing Fee Calculation

The filing fee has been calculated as follows:

Basic fee for Other Than a Small entity	\$690
Total claims in excess of 20 (= 0) x \$18	0
Total independent claims in excess of 3 (= 0) x \$78	0
Multiple dependent claims (= 0) \$260	0
Basic Filing Fee Due: \$ 690	
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#### 11. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic filing fee	\$ 690
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee for recordation of assignment	\$ 0
-----	
Total Fees Enclosed: \$ 690	
=====	

#### 12. Method of Payment of Fees

- A check drawn on THE LAW OFFICES OF DARA L. ONOFRIO in the amount of \$ 690.00.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee in the amount of \$        to Deposit Account No. 15-0699. A duplicate copy of this Request is attached.

#### 13. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees and Instructions as to Overpayment

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees required for the filing of this application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 15-0699.

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any under-payment of fees required to maintain the pendency of

this application to Deposit Account No. 15-0699.

**14. Correspondence Address**

The power of attorney given to the attorney of record in the prior application is continued in this application. Please address all correspondence regarding this application to the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants

Dated: July 14, 2000      By:



Dara L. Onofrio  
Reg. No. 34,889

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New York, NY 10279-2799  
(212) 791-2950

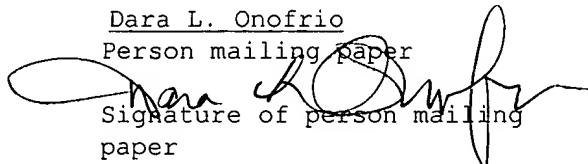
**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as express mail No. EK758314130US in an envelope addressed to the:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231.

Attention: BOX CPA

Dated: July 14, 2000



Dara L. Onofrio  
Person mailing paper  
Signature of person mailing  
paper